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# HOUSE BILL No. 1300

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 9-13-2-125; IC 9-18-2-32; IC 9-18-2-47; IC 9-18-15.

**Synopsis:** Motor vehicle plates. Requires that letters on license plates that are a part of the registration identifier be the same size as the numerals that are a part of the registration identifier. Provides that a personalized license plate is valid for five years. Requires renewal of registration of a personalized license plate to be completed by October 31 of the year before issuance of the personalized license plate or any indicia of renewal of registration. Makes conforming amendments.

**Effective:** July 1, 2002.

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January 15, 2002, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.

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Second Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2002)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2001 General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1300

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-13-2-125 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 125. "Personalized  
3 license plate" means a license plate that displays the registration  
4 number assigned to the vehicle and issued in a combination of letters  
5 or numbers, or both, **of the same size**, requested by the owner or the  
6 lessee of the vehicle.
- 7 SECTION 2. IC 9-18-2-32 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
8 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 32. (a) Except as  
9 provided in subsection (b), a license plate issued under section 30 of  
10 this chapter:
- 11 (1) must be six (6) inches wide and twelve (12) inches long;  
12 (2) must display:  
13 (A) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which  
14 the plate is issued;  
15 (B) the letters "IN"; and  
16 (C) the year for which the plate is issued;  
17 (3) may have a prefix of at least one (1) letter of the alphabet **of**



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1        **the same size as the registration number** to designate the type  
 2        of vehicle registered; and

3        (4) shall be treated with special reflective material designed to  
 4        increase the visibility and legibility of the license plate.

5        (b) The bureau may issue license plates in a different size or  
 6        character if the bureau determines that the change is appropriate to  
 7        effect the proper display of the license plates.

8        SECTION 3. IC 9-18-2-47, AS AMENDED BY P.L.150-2001,  
 9        SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 10       JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 47. (a) The commissioner shall adopt rules under  
 11       IC 4-22-2 prescribing the cycle for the issuance and replacement of  
 12       license plates under this article. The rules adopted under this section  
 13       shall provide that a license plate for a vehicle issued under this article  
 14       is valid for five (5) years.

15       (b) The rules adopted under this section do not apply to:

16       (1) low digit license plates issued under section 28 of this chapter;

17       ~~(2) personalized license plates issued under IC 9-18-15;~~

18       ~~(3) (2)~~ truck license plates issued under section 4.5 or 18 of this  
 19       chapter; and

20       ~~(4) (3)~~ general assembly and other state official license plates  
 21       issued under IC 9-18-16.

22       SECTION 4. IC 9-18-15-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 23       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 2. (a) A personalized  
 24       license plate may be the same color and size and contain similar  
 25       required information as regular license plates issued for the respective  
 26       class of vehicle.

27       (b) A personalized license plate is limited to the:

28       (1) numerals 0 through 9; or

29       (2) letters A through Z, **that must be the same size as the**  
 30       **numerals;**

31       in a continuous combination of numbers and letters with at least two  
 32       (2) positions.

33       (c) A personalized license plate may not be issued to duplicate a  
 34       regularly issued plate.

35       (d) Only one (1) personalized plate, without regard to classification  
 36       of registration, may be issued by the bureau with the same  
 37       configuration of numbers and letters.

38       SECTION 5. IC 9-18-15-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 39       FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 5. A renewal of a  
 40       personalized license plate must be completed by October 31 of the year  
 41       before issuance of the personalized license plate **or other indicia of**  
 42       **renewal of registration as set forth in IC 9-18-2-8.**



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SECTION 6. IC 9-18-15-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 6. (a) If a person who has been issued a personalized license plate renews the registration, the person's combination of numerals and letters is not available to another person until the following registration period.

(b) If a person does not renew a personalized license plate by October 31 **of the year before the year a new personalized license plate is to be issued**, the combination of letters and numerals that was issued becomes available upon the application of a person qualifying under this chapter.

SECTION 7. IC 9-18-15-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 10. (a) In addition to the applicable excise tax imposed under IC 6-6-5, the regular registration fees, and any additional fee required to receive a special recognition license plate described in section 1(b) of this chapter, a person applying for **or renewing the registration of** a personalized license plate shall pay a personalized license plate fee and contribution upon an original application **or registration renewal**.

(b) Each license branch shall collect the personalized license plate fee and contribution at the time of application **or registration renewal** for the personalized license plate.

(c) Upon the payment of the required fee, **contribution**, and service charges for an original application or renewal of a personalized license plate, the bureau shall issue a receipt designating and acknowledging a state fee, a political contribution, and the service charge under IC 9-29.

(d) The payment of regular registration fees and excise tax, if applicable, may be deferred until the time that the personalized license plate is delivered to the person who applied for the plate.

(e) A license branch shall collect the service charge prescribed under IC 9-29 for each initial or renewal application for a personalized license plate as a reservation and special processing fee.

SECTION 8. IC 9-18-15-15 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002]: Sec. 15. (a) Applications for personalized license plates shall be accepted at any time for **initial** issuance of the plates for the following year.

(b) Notwithstanding IC 9-18-2-7 and IC 9-18-2-8, a person who is the registered owner or lessee of a vehicle who is issued a personalized license plate shall be required to register the vehicle before May 1 of each year.

SECTION 9. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002] (a) **Notwithstanding IC 9-13-2-125, IC 9-18-2-32, and IC 9-18-15-2, all as amended by**

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1 this act, the requirement that the letters on license plates that are  
2 a part of the registration identifier be the same size as the numerals  
3 that are a part of the registration identifier does not apply to  
4 license plates issued before January 1, 2003.

5 (b) This SECTION expires June 30, 2004.

6 SECTION 10. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002] (a) Notwithstanding  
7 IC 9-18-2-47, as amended by this act, the requirement that  
8 personalized license plates be valid for five (5) years and subject to  
9 the rules prescribing the cycle for the issuance and replacement of  
10 license plates does not apply to license plates issued before January  
11 1, 2003.

12 (b) Notwithstanding IC 9-18-15-15, as amended by this act, the  
13 requirement limiting the year-round acceptance of applications for  
14 personalized license plates to the initial issuance of the plates, as  
15 provided by IC 9-18-15-15, as amended by this act, does not apply  
16 to license plates issued before January 1, 2003.

17 (c) This SECTION expires June 30, 2004.

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